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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 631  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ray Patterson of  
Dyersburg.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor the memory of those remarkable Tennesseans who dedicated their lives to the service of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Ray Patterson was an exemplary human being and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the youngest of four boys and three girls, he was the loving son of the late Jess and Lettie Patterson who sharecropped a small farm near the Lenox community in Dyer County; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Ray Patterson, with his brother, Jerry Patterson, opened a small auto shop, where they mended flat tires and performed auto repairs and towing; and

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WHEREAS, drawing on common sense and an uncommon work ethic, Ray and Jerry Patterson built Patterson Brothers Wrecker Service Station into a well-respected auto repair business; and

WHEREAS, with the success of the Patterson Brothers Wrecker Service Station, the brothers relocated their business to a service station just off of the town square and secured a British Petroleum franchise; and

WHEREAS, a man of honor and commitment, Ray Patterson was admired for his fair treatment of his customers and employees and for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, known for his generosity and honesty, Mr. Patterson once drove to Missouri to return a customer's billfold which had been left behind at the Patterson Brothers Wrecker Service Station; he often helped those stranded and in need, towing their cars and allowing them to send him his payment when they had the money; and

WHEREAS, a faithful Christian, he was a devout member of the Hebrews 13:8 Christian Tabernacle of Dyersburg; and

WHEREAS, Ray Patterson was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson will be sorely missed by a multitude of loving family and friends, including his wife, Elizabeth Patterson; his daughters, Donna Patterson and Karen Patterson; his son, Anthony Patterson; his brothers, Jerry Patterson, Thomas Patterson, and Jimmy Patterson; and his sisters, Margie Golloway and Joyce McCorkle; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Betty Parter; and

WHEREAS, Ray Patterson has left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband and father, a devoted brother, and a kind neighbor and friend, his life of service and goodwill stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional businessman, family man, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Ray Patterson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to his family and community, his considerable professional achievements, and the courage and conviction with which he lived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ray Patterson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.